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A DIGEST OF THE LAW OF EVIDENCE. By SIR JAMES FITZJAMES STEPHEN. Second American Edition, from the Sixth English Edition, with Annotations and References to American Cases. By GEORGE CHASE, LL. B. New York. 1898.

The second American edition of Stephen's important work on Evidence incorporates such amplifications and changes in the text as were made by the author in the last English edition, which was published before his death. In the preface to this sixth English edition Stephen stated that the Law of Evidence had hardly been altered at all since the book had been first published. Cases had been decided, however, and statutes passed; and, to include mention of these, the successive editions had been prepared.

A similar justification is found for the second American edition. In the twelve years since its predecessor appeared, several thousands of cases bearing on the subject of Evidence have been reported in America. These have been carefully examined and are extensively cited in the notes, so as to exhibit the law in its latest developments. Many new illustrations have been added, and the annotations which set forth the American law have been thoroughly revised and largely rewritten. Some of the topics have thus received fuller treatment than was given them before. In other minor respects this second edition marks an improvement over the first, and it will doubtless gain a welcome from the profession.

J. J. S.

THE NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS LAW. Annotated. By J. WARNER MILLS. Denver, Colo.: Mills Publishing Company. 1897.

"The Negotiable Instruments Laws" of Colorado (Colorado Session Laws, 1897, Chapter 64, pages 210-248), have been digested and annotated by Mr. J. Warner Mills. The work is on the same general plan as is used in the various digests of the state laws, though more complete. The book is of 150 pages, and is of value only to the Colorado bar.

J. F. B. A.

THE LAW ON RAILWAY ACCIDENTS IN MASSACHUSETTS. By G. HAY, Jr. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1897.

The author, in this case, has succeeded admirably in treating a subject which has already been extensively written upon and exhaustively considered. We end a perusal of his single volume with the wish that Mr. Hay, instead of restricting his scholarly treatise to the law of Massachusetts, had made it a general text-book. The discussion of the subject has been with bolder originality than one would think possible without making the law suffer, but in no case has it resulted in other than a felicitous exposition, which, from

the time the author settles upon his leading thought of "physical integrity" until he finishes his discussion of the most recent Massachusetts statute, is especially noticeable. The analysis of the subject is worthy of note, together with the logical methods which have been used in arrangement. The chapters usually start with some well-established rule, and lead, by the most natural steps, into the very heart of the subject.

Some 700 cases are collected and are cited in the body of the text instead of by foot-notes, and this at times so cuts the text up that it is found unpleasant. The book is chiefly of value to the practitioner and student of the one state only; and aside from its logical arrangement and orderly grouping of the parts, so that the main object is constantly kept before the reader's eyes, it is, owing to its limited scope of treatment, not likely to be widely read. But, in all justice to the author, we must bear in mind that he has thoroughly covered the ground that he started out to accomplish.

T. C.

SUPPLEMENT TO NOTES ON THE REVISED STATUTES OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE SUBSEQUENT LEGISLATION OF CONGRESS, JULY 1, 1889, JANUARY 1, 1898. By JOHN M. GOULD and GEORGE F. TUCKER. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1898.

In 1889 appeared the well-known volume of Messrs. Gould and Tucker, entitled "Notes on the Revised Statutes of the United States and the Subsequent Legislation of Congress." A supplement of some six hundred and fifty pages now brings the work down to January 1, 1898. The purpose of the notes and the supplement cannot be better shown than by an extract from the preface to the original volume: "The aim has been to show all changes made by the revision of 1874 in the previous laws, and all statutory changes and additions since made down to and including the legislation of the Fiftieth Congress, together with the result of all material decisions of the Federal and state courts relating to the constitutionality, repeal, modification and construction of these, the supreme law of the land."

In the supplement, which includes the later statutes through the first session of the Fifty-fifth Congress, the arrangement of the previous volume is followed. The notes are classified in accordance with the numbering of the titles and sections of the Revised Statutes. In many instances the new statute is inserted in full. The notes of judicial decisions are remarkably concise. The authors, throughout the book, have used rare judgment in condensing a great mass of information within a reasonable compass. Every page gives evidence of careful editing. Messrs. Gould and Tucker have placed the bar at large under renewed obligations by bringing down to date a standard work of wide usefulness.

T. S. W.